

REMARKS

Applicant first wishes to note that the Examiner has allowed claims 36-41. Therefore, further discussion with respect to these claims is considered moot.

The present invention relates to a system and method of controlling the retransmission (e.g., replies and forwards) of email message content by a recipient of the email message. By way of example, a sender selects content in a first email message, and transmits the first email message to a recipient. Included with the first email message is control information that controls the retransmission of the selected portion of the first email message by the recipient. Upon receipt, the recipient may freely reply to or forward the first email message in a second email message. However, the control information determines whether the selected portion of the first email message is included with (or excluded from) the second email message when the recipient replies to or forwards the first email message.

The Examiner rejected claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by the patent to Kobata. In response, Applicant has amended claim 26 to now recite, "selecting a portion of email message content in a first email message that is to be sent to a recipient ... [and] ...inserting control information into the first email message to control retransmission of the selected portion of the email message content in a second email message originating from the recipient of the first email message, without deleting the recipient's copy of the first email message." Kobata does not teach these elements, and therefore cannot anticipate claim 26 under §102.

Kobata discloses a system whereby a user may designate an email message with a copy protection indicator. Upon receiving the email message, a viewer module on the recipient's system prevents the recipient from propagating the email message to additional parties. However, unlike amended claim 26, the user can only designate copy protection for the entire email message – not selected content. That is in Kobata, the user can either propagate

the message content (i.e., forward, reply, etc.), or not propagate the message content. Kobata never mentions that a user may actively select email message content for exclusion/inclusion in subsequent email messages originating from the recipient. Accordingly, Kobata fails to anticipate claim 26.

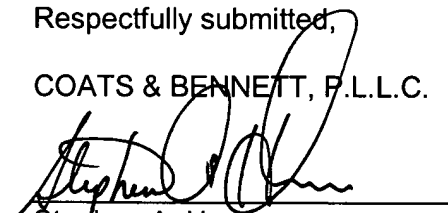
The Examiner also rejected claims 42, 52, 57, and 63 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by the patent to Kobata for the same reasons as those stated above for claim 26. However, Applicant has amended claims 42, 52, and 57 to recite language similar to that of amended claim 26. Claim 63 has not been amended as it already recites this language. As such, Kobata also fails to anticipate any of claims 42, 52, 57, and 63 under §102.

Finally, Applicant notes that dependent claims 27-29, 31, 33-35, 43-45, 47-48, 51, 53-55, 58-60, and 62 have been amended to ensure that the language of these claims comports with that of their respective amended independent claims. No new matter has been added.

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen A. Herrera", is written over a horizontal line.

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